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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Recruiting Methods for Pre-Military and Military
Service/Regulation Papers and Procedures

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2. The following diagrams showing the national organization of the Ministria Morojtjes Kombetare (Ministry of People's Defense) and of the Ministrija Punet Mbrodeshme (Ministry of Internal Affairs -- actually the Sigurimi Shtetit or Security Police) will clarify information in this report.

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Organization of the Ministry of People's Defense

3. "There is a Zyra Rekrutimit (Recruiting Office) in the capital town of each Albanian region. These offices depend on the Seksioni Mobilizim-Cmobilizim (Section for Mobilization and Discharge) of the Ministry of People's Defense. There are no sub-recruiting offices. Even in Tirana the same Zyra Rekrutimit covers both the city and the region.

Ministria Mbrojtjes Kombetare
Ministry of People's Defense
Blv. Shqipria e Re, Tirana

Seksioni Mobilizim-Cmobilizim

<u>Zyra Rekrutimit:</u>	Tirana (Rr. Shen-Gjergjit)	Himara
	Elbasan	Tepelene
	Korçe	Fier
	Pogradec	Kavaje
	Permet	Shkoder
	Lushnje	Kruje
	Berat	Shijak
	Gjinokaster	Peshkopi
	Vlone	Puke
	Sarande	Lesh
	Durres	Kukes

4. "Every year the Sek. Gjendja Civile or Sek. Civile (Civil State section) of the Komitet Ekz. K.P. (Executive Committee of the People's Board) of each region, and also those for the City of Tirana, supply their respective Zyra Rekrutimit with a nominal roll of all male citizens of their regions who have reached the age of 17 and who clearly reside within the region. Every Zyra Rekrutimit has a Mobilizim and a Cmobilizim section.

Organization of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

5. "There is a Sek. Punevet Mbrendeshme Rrethit (Regional Section of Internal Affairs) in the capital town of each Albanian region. There is also a Sek. P. Mbrendeshme Qytetit-Tirane (Section of Internal Affairs for the City of Tirana). This has three sub-sections, one for each rajone (city-sector) of the city. The regional sections have no sub-sections in the localities; they do have informers and S.SH.(Sigurimi Shtetit) officers and NCO's throughout the countryside, who represent the regional sections but do not have offices.

Ministria Punevet Mbrendeshme
Ministry of Internal Affairs
Blv. Shqipria e Re, Tirana

<u>Sek. P. Mbrendeshme Rrethit-</u> Section of Internal Affairs, Region of:	Tirana Elbasan Korçe Pogradec Permet Lushnje Berat Gjinokaster Vlone Sarande Durres Himara Tepelene Fier Kavaje Shkoder Kruje Shijak Peshkop Lesh Puke Kukes	<u>Sek. P. Mbrendeshme Qytetit-Tirane</u> Section of Internal Affairs, City of Tirana -- Rr. e Dibres Sek. P. Mbr. Rajoni 1 Rr. e Dursit, Tirana Sek. R. Mbr. Rajoni 2 Rr. e Dibres, Tirana Sek. P. Mbr. Rajoni 3 Rr. e Postes, Tirana
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Conscription

6. "There is compulsory conscription in Albania for men, not for women or young girls. No decrees or posters announce this conscription. It follows by normal procedure a law, dated probably about 1945, published in the Gazeta Zyrtare (Official Gazette) of the Presidium Shkronit Popullore (Presidium of the People's Assembly).

Pre-Military Conscription

7. "Every year, on or about 10 Sept, every Albanian boy who has reached the age of 17 receives from the Zyra Rekrutimit of the region in which he was born and has resided a so-called Flete-Thirrje (Order of Call). If he lives in Tirana or any other regional capital it is handed to him by a uniformed S.SH. soldier. If he lives in a locality or a village it is handed to him by the Polic-Lokaliteti or Polak-Katundi respectively. The Flete-Thirrje is a white, printed form, sized approximately 22 x 28 cms, part of which is a detachable receipt. When the youth receives the Flete-Thirrje, he signs the receipt, which is taken back by the S.SH. to the Zyra Rekrutimit which issued the document. The receipt must be signed by the person to whom the order is issued, or in his absence by any relative. If the person lives alone the Kryetar (president) of the Kshilli Lagja (city sub-sector) or of the local People's Board may accept it, but the youth himself must sign the receipt.

Sample Flete-Thirrje:

USHTRIA POPULLORE SHQIPTARE
ZYRA E REKRUTIMIT TIRANE
nr.....Prot.

VF LP
Tirane, ..19....

FLETE - THIRRJE

I qojtuni.....Date lindjes.....
Bamus.....Rruges.....Kryetari i kshillit.....
.....Jeni i thirrur te paraqiteni person Zyres Rekrutimit
Rr.....Nr.....Ora.....te dates.....

Mos paraqitja ne kohen e caktueme shkakton pergjegjesi
Ligjore.

PER ZYREN E REKRUTIMIT TIRANE
KOLONEL ()
VULA FIRMA

VERTETOJ SE MORA FLETE - THIRRJEN Ora.....Date.....

I THIRRJUNI
()
FIRMA

[Translation]

Albanian People's Army
Recruiting Office, Tirana
Nr.....Prot.

VF LP
Tirana, ..19....

ORDER OF CALL

Individual.....date of birth.....
residing at (city, town, locality or village)..Street..number..
Profession.....must report to the Recruiting Office, street..
number...hour....on date.....

Failure to report on fixed date will incur
punishment under law.

For the Recruiting Office of Tirana
Colonel (signature)
Stamp.

I heretofore certify to have received the Order of Call at..(Hour) (date)

Recruit
(signature)

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8. "The youth must report at the date and hour indicated to the Mobilizim Section of the Zyra Rekrutimit concerned. There he is interrogated by an Albanian Army Officer (rank of N/Toger, Toger or Kapiten II Kl.). The youth hands in his Leter-Thirrje and is questioned on the following:

- (a) Verification, through his Leter-Njoftimit (Citizen's Identification Card), of personal data. The officer writes down the youth's personal data in a so-called Kartoni-Rekrutit (Recruit's Personal File). The information elicited in the subsequent questions is also entered therein.
- (b) Surname and name of recruit; name of father and mother; date and place of birth; residence, street, number; profession; ethnic origin: one of three -- Shtrese e Varfen (poor, working origin), Shtrese e Mesme (middle class origin) or Shtrese e Pasun (rich, capitalistic origin).
- (c) Political affiliations: The recruit must mention all political organizations to which he belongs, which at the age of 17 might include: the Albanian Labor Party (this is the only occasion on which he must produce his Party Identification Card, Tesera I Partis; the officer takes down the number); the Bashkimi Rinis Punes Shqipris (Youth Organization of the Albanian Labor Party-- Union of Albanian Working Youth; the officer takes down the number of the recruit's Tesera B.R.P.SH., membership card). If the recruit should be over 18, having had his military service delayed because of a job in a State factory etc., he may belong to the Frontit-Demokratik and have a Triska I Frontit-Demokratik; again the officer takes down the number. This card is mostly requested at the time of actual military draft. The membership cards are returned to the recruit.
- (d) Degree of education (documents, such as school certificates, not necessary).
- (e) Knowledge of languages.
- (f) Marital status; children.
- (g) Specialized training (Kurs Specializimi) -- mechanical courses, accountancy, driving etc. Place given, number of years attended.
- (h) Penal record, if any: reason, term, prison where sentence served.
- (i) Service in the War of Liberation (Lufta Nac.-Cli.), if any: when, where, brigade, documents, awards. Note: former Partisans who possess documentary proof (sworn statement by one or two former Partisans who were in the same unit) and who served a minimum of 12 months and a day are exempt from further military service.
- (j) Awards and medals: Punes (Work), Clirimit (Freedom), Trimmie (medal issued to heroes) etc.

9. "The recruit is issued a document called the Librez-Rekruti. This is made of thin, but firm white paper, almost a cardboard, approximately 22 x 28 cms, which can be folded in four. It bears no photograph. The card, when folded, has eight pages and resembles an ordinary Identification Card. The recruit cuts the pages when he receives the document. The first page is not numbered; it bears the inscription Librez-Rekruti, a registration number written in ink by the officer and the title Ushtria Popullore Shqiprise. Page two is left blank. The officer then enters the following information:

Page 3: Recruit's name and surname
Names of father and mother
Date and place of birth.
Address
Profession
Signature of C.O. of Recruiting Office and stamp

Page 4: Member of Albanian Labor Party ?
Member of B.R.P.SH. ?
School(s) attended
Languages spoken
Special courses attended
Voluntary works performed
Work medals
Social origin

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Page 5: Service in the War of Liberation
Brigade ?
Length of service
Rank
Military arm
Medals
Previous military service
Penal sentences (reason, term, prison)

Page 6: Remarks and verifications
Signatures of officers of other Zyra Rekrutimit if the recruit, when a member of the Para-Ushtarak (Pre-Military Organization) moves to another region.

Page 7: Divided into 10 small parts, each to be used when the card is stamped upon arrival and departure from a town with a Recruiting Office.

Page 8: Remarks; printed regulations concerning use of the document and procedure to be followed when moving from one town to another.
Signature of the recruit.

The information in this Librez-Rekruti has also been recorded in the Kartoni-Rekrutit. The number on the Librez-Rekruti corresponds to that -- it is inserted in ink -- on the Kartoni-Rekrutit. The Librez-Rekruti is thus issued only when a youth receives his first Flete-Thirrje and begins his Para-Ushtarak (Pre-Military Service). At the end of the procedure described above he becomes a member of the Para-Ushtarak Organization. The Librez-Rekruti remains in his possession until he is called a second time, with another Flete-Thirrje, to report for actual conscription.

10. "Should the youth be sick on the day he has been ordered to report to the Zyra Rekrutimit, one of his relatives must immediately inform that office. Should he be seriously ill, affected by an illness which might entitle him to temporary or permanent exemption from military service, a special medical certificate from the Legal Medical Commission (Komisioni Medike-Legal) must be taken to the Zyra Rekrutimit. This medical certificate, called a Raport, is issued by a special board of doctors at the Civilian Hospital in any regional capital. The Commission's decision is accepted by the recruitment officer and the Raport attached to the youth's personal Kartoni-Rekrutit. For temporary or permanent disability (TB, blindness, dumbness, amputated limb), recruits are not questioned; nor are they issued a Librez-Rekruti.

11. "The holder of a Librez-Rekruti must keep it in his possession. It is not an identification. According to regulations, the holder must, prior to departure from a town, have his Librez-Rekruti stamped with a departure stamp at the Zyra Rekrutimit where he was drafted and must, within 24 hours, of arrival at his destination, have it stamped with an arrival stamp at the Zyra Rekrutimit there. / Procedure not clear if the recruit is visiting a place where there is no Zyra Rekrutimit / The same procedure is followed upon return. If a youth of military age has no Librez-Rekruti, because of medical exemption, and is detained by the S.SH. in the town of arrival, he need only mention the Zyra Rekrutimit which declared him unfit for military service. The S.SH. checks such information through its own channels.

12. "The recruit has been declared fit for Para-Ushtarak service. At the end of September or beginning of October he receives another Flete-Thirrje (Order of Call) to report to such-and-such a place on a certain date. (This Flete-Thirrje is a document similar to the one he received originally. The same receipt procedure follows. A Flete-Thirrje is issued also whenever a member of the reserve is recalled for periodic military training, whenever a person is called up for active service, whenever a Zyra Rekrutimit wants additional information -- the wording is not changed on the printed form in that case, although the reason is not a call to active duty.)

13. "In Tirana the recruit would be called to report to the Fusha e Sportit football stadium at the Shallvare field. There, Para-Ushtarak training takes place every Sunday from 0800 to 1200 hours. Recruits who live in villages do their Para-Ushtarak training in the nearest locality. An Army officer conducts the training. The Para-Ushtarak training is obligatory. A roll call is made at the end of the four hours. The recruits wear civilian clothing. The instructor is an Aspirant, a N/Toger or a Toger. The training consists of: gymnastics, positions of attention, marching, behavior before an officer. The recruits are divided into companies (in one known case, 30 recruits in each). They study the parts of a rifle (in this case, a German or Belgian rifle pf(?)

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7.92 mm caliber, only one rifle to a company). Though the parts are studied, there is no actual rifle training or drill.

14. "Every recruit must complete 100 hours of Para-Ushtarak service training. At the end of this period, usually about March, there is a special ceremony in which the recruits are handed a special Vertetim document issued by the Zyra Rekrutimit of the region concerned. The marks earned by the recruit in his course are also entered in the Vertetim. Thereafter the recruits are free of pre-military service, but they must keep in their possession both the Vertetim and the Librez-Rekruti documents.

15. "This pre-military training is compulsory for all Albanian youths, regardless of social origin. Thus, sons of kulaks and other reactionaries perform it. When a recruit in the midst of training goes from one town to another, or changes residence, he must report to the Recruiting Office upon departure and arrival [see paragraph 11]. If he has not completed the training, the Recruiting Office of the town to which he has come assigns him to the nearest company to complete his training. If he has completed his course and possesses a Vertetim, he still must go through the departure and arrival formalities.

Regular Military Conscription

16. "Seventy-five per cent of the youths who complete their Para-Ushtarak service in March are drafted in September of the same year; the remainder are drafted the following year. The Flete-Thirrje (Order of Call) is similar to that issued for pre-military service.

17. "The draftee reports to the Recruiting Office at the date and hour indicated in the Flete-Thirrje. He comes before the Recruiting Commission in his turn. This Commission [at least in Tirana, Nov 51] consists of eight members:

- (a) One doctor (either a civilian or a member of the Medical Corps with the rank of Captain I Kl. or Major. Assisted by two hospital attendants.
- (b) Two officers attached to the Zyra Rekrutimit of the region concerned. (In Nov 51 in Tirana these officers were two captains, not the colonel who was the commanding officer of the Zyra Rekrutimit.)
- (c) Two officers of the Sek. Punevet Mbrodeshme of the region concerned. (Nov 51 in Tirana they were dressed in civilian clothes.)
- (d) One Pergjegjes (representative) of the Komiteti Ekz. K.P. (Executive Committee of the People's Board of the region concerned. (Nov 51 Aleks Lubonia, Pergjegjes of the Sek. Punes - Labor Section - of the People's Board of the City of Tirana performed this duty.)
- (e) Two officers, a Captain I Kl. and a Captain II Kl. of the Ministria Mbrojtjes Kombetare.

18. "The draftee empties his pockets of all documents, plus wallet and watch, on the table behind which sit the members of the Commission, except the doctor. Even the membership card for the Albanian Labor Party must be shown. While the Commission members examine these items the draftee is taken to a separate room, stripped and given a complete medical examination. The doctor hands the draftee a signed note which describes his physical condition. The draftee, still completely undressed, returns before the Commission, hands over the note and remains at attention. The members consult among themselves to decide which branch of the Armed Services to assign to the man. The military unit is not, however, revealed to the draftee. The criteria for assignment are known in general terms:

- (a) Marinen Popullore (Navy): Coastal residents, sailors, required minimum height of 170 cms.
- (b) Artilleria Bregdetare (Coastal Artillery): Strong physique.
- (c) Mbrojtje Popullore (People's Defense); Members of and candidates to the Albanian Labor Party and, generally, all citizens, including farmers, whom the Party considers reliable elements of the regime.
- (d) Kamsoria (Infantry): No special criteria.
- (e) Aviacioni (Air Force): Reliable elements only.

(f) Batalioni Special I Punes (Special Work Battalions): All recruits with a Shitresë e Pasun social origin.

19. The Commission hands the draftee a document known as the Flete-Thirrje-Nenarme (Order of Draft). This document is a white paper, the same size and sort as the Flete-Thirrje (Paragraph 77). The only difference is the wording. It states that Recruit X has been inducted into the Armed Forces and is to report to a certain recruiting office at a certain date and time, normally 10-12 days after the examination. There is a receipt to sign. The back of the paper lists certain regulations to be followed by the recruit: he must bring three days' supply of food when he reports to the recruiting office. Sample Flete-Thirrje-Nenarme:

V.F.

Ushtrija Popullore Shqiprise
Zyra e Rekrutimit Tirane

Nr.....Prot..

L.P.

Tirane..19..

FLETE-THIRRJE-NENARME

Rekrutidate-lindiesbanus ne Tirane
Rrugja.....Nr.....me profesion.....jeni te mobilizue per krymjen e
sherbimit ushtarak te detyrushem ne ushtrine e R.P.SH. Simbas dekret-Ligjit
date.....Nr.....te shpalle nga kuvendi Popullor i R.P.SH.

Te Paraqiteni Prane Zyres Rekrutimit ora.....date....
Mos Paraqitja Shkakton Perjegjesillogjore.

Per Zyren e Rekrutimit-Tirane
Kolonel ()

firma

vula

Vertetetoj se Mora Flete Thirrjen: Ora....date....

I Thirruri
()

*** **

/translation/

V.F.

Albanian People's Army
Recruiting Office, Tirana

Nr.....Prot...

L.P.

Tirana, date

ORDER OF DRAFT

Recruit....born.....residing at Tirana, Rrugja...Nr...
by profession.....is heretofore drafted to perform obligatory military
service in the Armed Forces of the Albanian People's Republic. Per provision
of law set forth with Decree date....Nr....proclaimed by the Kuvendit Popullor
of the Albanian People's Republic.

You must report to the Recruiting Office at hour....
date....Failure to report is punishable under law.

For the Recruiting Office of Tirana
Colonel (signature)

Stamp

I certify hereto that I have received the Order of Draft, hour...date...
Recruit
(Signature)

Note: every Zyra Rekrutimit has a different form of stamp (round, triangular etc), affixed over the signature of the officer. The Tirana Zyra Rekrutimit had Nov 51 a round stamp; the Shkoder Zyra Rekrutimit had a triangular stamp.

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20. "When the recruit leaves the Zyra Rekrutimit he receives back none of the documents (Leter-Njofitimit, trade union membership card, membership card of the Fronti-Demokratik etc.) he may have left with the Commission except the Tazera I Partis (Membership Card of the Albanian Labor Party) or the Membership Card of the Bashkimi Rinis Punes Shqipris, if he possesses one of those. He takes with him the Flete-Thirrje-Nenarme. That is the sole document issued to a new member of the Armed Forces; it serves as his identification card in any official inspection. (As the recruit leaves the Zyra Rekrutimit a civilian barber attached to the office cuts his hair.)

Exemptions

21. "There are no exemptions from Para-Ushtarak training except for ex-Partisans who have two proper documents testifying to service of over a year and a day [see paragraph 8 -(1)]. Temporary relief from the Para-Ushtarak may be granted in response to a Medical Report from the Commission of the Civilian Hospital of the region concerned. Youths employed in State plants perform their Para-Ushtarak training the same way as anyone else, on Sundays.

22. "If a recruit reporting to a Zyra Rekrutimit with his Flete-Thirrje is obviously extremely ill, the Commission might grant him temporary or permanent release from military service. Such release is granted usually by the physician of the unit to which he has been assigned; that physician might issue him a one-year delay of military service. The real medical exemptions are granted usually at the time of the first call, when the boys of 17 are called up for Para-Ushtarak training. At that time they may be declared permanently unfit for military service and not called again.

23. "Temporary release from normal conscription may be granted if the Seksioni Kuadrit (personnel section) of a State institution (plant, cooperative, etc.) declares that the recruit is an indispensable employee (Elementa te pa Zavendsusham). Actually, the Seksioni Kuadrit of the various State institutions etc. send the Zyra Rekrutimit of their regions a list of all the employees whom they consider irreplaceable at the time of conscription. For example, an elementary schoolteacher, i.e. an employee of the Ministry of Education, might have been sent to a rural school after having received his first call for Para-Ushtarak training. The Sek. Kuadrit of the Ministry of Education may obtain his temporary release from military service because elementary school teachers in areas where there are still many illiterate farmers are considered irreplaceable elements by the regime.

24. "According to a law published by the Gazeta Zyrtare of the Kuvendit Popullore in, it is believed, 1946, all Ministers and Vice-Ministers are fully exempted from pre-military and military training.

25. "According to a law published, it is believed, in 1946, youths -- not 'reactionaries' -- who are the only support of their family (relationship extends to uncle or grandparent, provided they live together) are entitled to exemption from the term of military service, but not to exemption from the pre-military service. That is the theory. Actually, the youths falling in this category get drafted like everybody else. After two months of military service they are entitled to file an application. (They have meantime urged their relatives to obtain from the Sek. Civile of their Komiteti Eks. K.P. -- farmers do this at the People's Board in the locality nearest them, since there are no Civil Sections in the village People's Boards -- a so-called Certifikat e Gjendes-Civile: Certificate of the Civil State Section. This certificate demonstrates that the recruit is the head of family X, that he supports such-and-such relatives.) After receiving such a certificate the recruit files a written application -- no stamps affixed -- addressed to the Seksioni Mobilizim-Cmobilizim of the Ministry of People's Defense; he describes his case and attaches the Certifikat e Gjendes-Civile. The recruit requests, through normal military channels, to speak to the commanding officer of his unit. He hands him the application for transmittal to the Ministry of Defense. The reply takes about a month. The exemptions are very rare, and granted only to Party members who may have had a fine political record prior to conscription. The routine of discharge is the normal one [to be described in a subsequent report]. I [first source] recall only one case in my experience: A Party member was discharged, after such an application, from the Artillery School at Durres in March 52. He had been Kryetar of the Puka Gjygji -- Puka Tribunal.

Actual Induction Procedure

26. "If the conscript, who now possesses his Flete-Thirrje-Nenarme, is not within the Government's 'field of labor', he simply reports at the indicated time to the Zyra Rekrutimit to be sent to his unit.

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27. "If the conscript is within the Government's field of labor, he has already followed one special procedure: upon receiving the Flete-Thirrje (Order of Call) he informs the Seksioni Kuadrit of his institution/plant etc. When he gets the actual Flete-Thirrje-Nenarme he shows it first to his direct work superior, the Shefi Seksionit (Section Chief). That man designates his replacement. He and the replacement, together with a third worker who acts as witness, prepare a Proces-Verbal (statement) in triplicate. This is an inventory, listing all the tools and materials, and their condition, handed over to the replacement. It bears the date and the signatures of the three persons. The original remains with the Shefi Seksionit; one copy goes to the administrative office of the institution; the third is retained by the conscript. The conscript then reports to the Sek. Kuadrit of the plant, institution etc. He shows the Flete-Thirrje-Nenarme and the Proces-Verbal. The Seksioni Kuadrit informs the financial section of the institution. The conscript is paid up to his last day of work plus an additional 15 days -- that represents the bonus granted under law to all State workers leaving a job, regardless of the reason for dismissal. If the conscript is entitled to some premia -- these are paid to shockworkers at intervals of three, six or 12 months -- that money will be sent to him at his military unit.

28. "If the conscript is a member of the Albanian Labor Party or of its youth organization, the Union of Albanian Working Youth, he must report, respectively, to the Sekretari Organizata Baze I Partis (Secretary of the Party Basic Organization) or the Sekretari Organizata Baze I Rinis to whom he is responsible. From the secretary he obtains, after showing his Flete-Thirrje Nenarme, a written Rekomendim (Recommendation). This is either hand or typewritten by the secretary on a normal piece of paper and bears his signature. It is addressed to, respectively, the Komiteti Partis Punes Qytetit-Tirane or the Bashkimi Rinis Punes Qytetit-Tirane, if the conscript is a resident of the city of Tirana (note: not to the Org. Baze of the Rajone), or the corresponding head regional organizations, if the conscript lives elsewhere. Through the Rekomendim the secretary informs the Party or Youth organization that Member X has been drafted into the Armed Forces and requests that he be issued a Flet-Lidhje. The conscript receives this document in a sealed envelope -- therefore sources have only general information on it. It is a letter that declares the conscript's membership in the Party or Youth organization, that he has been a member since....., that he possesses a Tesera I Partis or Tesera E Rinis No....., that he has paid his membership fees up to..... There is no address on the envelope. The conscript retains this Flet-Lidhje together with his Party or Youth organization membership card.

29. "At the precise time indicated in his Flete-Thirrje-Nenarme, the conscript reports to the Zyra Rekrutimit, following the printed instructions on the back of the page: how to resign from his place of work; to bring food supplies for three days; to retain his Party and/or Youth membership cards. At the Zyra Rekrutimit the conscript is handed over to an officer or NCO of the unit to which he has been assigned. The recruits are grouped in three rows. The first recruit in each row is a Party member designated by the commanding officer of the Zyra Rekrutimit. These three are appointed Komandant Skuadre, in charge of the other recruits. The C.O. makes a roll call. Then comes a speech in which the recruits are ordered to obey their superiors and to perform their military service in accordance with Party directives. Each recruit is handed 1800 gms of black bread -- one loaf to two men -- and a tin of Soviet-canned beef. At this point the recruits' Flete-Thirrje Nenarms are taken by the officer in charge of their new military unit. The C.O. of the Zyra Rekrutimit hands over the recruits to the officer, and they begin their trip.

30. "Approximately 150 recruits went in Nov 51 from the Recruiting Office in Tirana to the Division of Coastal Defense. Following was the experience of one:

- (a) He had said goodbye to his family before reporting to the Zyra Rekrutimit. He reported in his worst civilian clothes: when new conscripts receive their uniforms they surrender their civilian clothes and never get them back, even upon discharge. On leaving the Zyra Rekrutimit the conscripts marched in civilian clothing to the Tirana railway station. They took a regular train to Durres. They got off at the Stacioni Plazhit (Beach Station), about three miles from the regular Durres station. They marched to the so-called Ke Plepat (Poplars) place, five km southeast of the port of Durres, along the bay. There they were taken to the barracks of the Shkolla Artilerise Mbrojtjes Bregdetare (Coastal Artillery School). This school was transferred Dec 51 to the Brr. Cyrilavet in Durres, when its barracks were taken over by the Shkolla Oficerave Reserve (Reserve Officers' School). The conscripts slept there one night on the cement floor of the mess canteen; no blankets were issued. The next morning after roll call they marched to Kavaja, 19 km southeast of Durres. This time they were under the command of a kapter (sergeant) armed with a Soviet-type PPS automatic rifle. At Kavaja they were taken to the Regimenti-Kavajes. They had been issued no food that day, only water.

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(b) At Kavaja the recruits were joined by recruits from Vlone, Sarande, Kukes, Korce etc., i.e. from other regional recruiting offices. Thus, all recruits destined for one branch of the armed forces joined on the same day the military unit to which they were assigned. They were housed at Kavaja in Italian-built barracks, sleeping on cement floors. The next day the officers collected the Flat-Lidhje envelopes. The recruits undressed completely, tied up their civilian clothes and attached a piece of paper giving name and surname, town of origin (but not of residence) of the Zyra Rekrutimit whence arrived. The clothes bundles were registered. The recruits then took showers. Each was issued a small piece of soap. If a recruit belonged to the Party or Youth organization he surrendered his membership card at that time. Eleven NCO's patrolled the shower room. After showering, the recruits collected an item of clothing from each NCO and got back their Party or Youth membership cards. Each recruit received the following clothing issue:

- 2 Peshqir (towels)
- 2 Breke (long drawers)
- 2 Kmishe (shirts)
- 1 Pandallona (trousers)
- 1 Khakete (jacket)
- 1 Pallto (winter coat)
- 1 Kepuce (military shoes)
- 4 Pece (cloths, replacing socks)
- 1 Canta (military knapsack)
- 2 Rypa (one belt for the jacket, one for the winter coat)
- 1 Kepete (cap)
- 1 Ylli (insignia, red star to be affixed to cap)
- 1 Gaveta (aluminum plate)
- 1 Luge (aluminum spoon)

The recruits dressed in uniform. At noon they received their first Army meal. After lunch they were divided into three groups. A soldier chosen by an officer read the Zeri Popullit paper aloud. Soldiers with musical instruments played while others sang. (Note: on the back of the Flete-Thirrje Nenarwe it states that recruits should bring along musical instruments if they possess them; these instruments are not surrendered with civilian clothing.) Supper was served at 1800 hours. Until bed at 2130 hours the recruits read papers or sang. That night they were taken to another barrack with beds: straw mattresses and two blankets each. Reveille the next morning was at 0600 hrs. After breakfast at 0900 all the recruits at Kavaja -- now about 2000, i.e. all the recruits of that year for the Division of Coastal Defence -- were gathered in the courtyard of the regimental barrack: before a special commission.

(c) This commission assigned to each recruit the precise military unit he was to join. The previous afternoon many officers had approached the recruits, finding out their civilian occupations. The officers seemed anxious to select the best recruits for their own units. The commission of eight officers included [recruit learned these names during his service at Durres]:

Major Ihemal Zeneli, Komisari Politik i Brigates M'rojtjes Bregdetare (Political Commissar of the Division of Coastal Defence).

Captain 1st Cl. Mehmet Mulosmani, Artillery Commandant of the Division of Coastal Defence.

Major Setki Elezi, Chief of the Artillery of the Division of Coastal Defence.

Misto Kita, Lieut., Komandant i Shkolles Istruksionit Artileris (Commanding Officer of the Artillery School)

There were also two other Captains 1st Cl. and two Lieutenants. The recruits were called one by one to the table behind which sat the commission. Major Zeneli ordered them to line up behind one of five officers. The commission then left. This selection for the various specialized branches of the Division of Coastal Defence must have been made a long time in advance at the Durres headquarters. The five groups from this selection were assigned to:

(1) About 1000 to Durres:

100 to the Reparti Ushtarak Nderlidhje (Military Telecommunications Unit), Rr. Cyrillavet. This is a training school for telephone

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and wireless officers. Course lasts nine months. Graduates are N/Officers for the telecommunications branch of the Armed Forces.

- 650 to the Shkolla Artilerise Mbrojtjes Bregdetare (Coastal Artillery School), Rr. Cyrilavet, Durres.
- 250 to the Komanda Brigades Mbrojtjes Bregdetare (Headquarters, Division of Coastal Defense), Rr. Mujo Ulqinaku, Durres.

- (2) About 250 infantry and artillery recruits to the Regjimenti-Kavajes (Kavaja Regiment).
- (3) About 100 to the Reparti Ushtarak Artilerije (Military Artillery Unit), Sarande.
- (4) About 550 to the Regiment Vlone in Vlone.
- (5) About 100 to the Reparti Ushtarak Artilerije and the Reparti Ushtarak Kondrajrore (Antiaircraft Unit), Shengjin.

(d) The next two days the various groups began leaving in military trucks (Soviet ZIS, old US General Motors or old Italian SVA models). The group for the Artillery School left the third day. The first 15 days were spent in a period of quarantine -- compulsory for all recruits reaching their unit of assignment. This period is spent doing gymnastics but no military training.

31. Ordinary soldiers and non-commissioned officers are issued as identification a Flete-Lete (Permit) which must be carried at all off-duty times. This document serves as a soldier's personal identification card, replacing the civilian Letor-Hjostimit surrendered to the Recruiting Office. If a soldier or NCO is found without this document he is subject to immediate arrest. This document is either printed or handwritten on a normal piece of paper. Sample for a soldier at the Artillery School at Durres:

Ushtrija Popullore e Shqipris
Reparti Ushtarak Nr. 1750/B

VF LP
Durres, 19...

FLETE-LETE

Kursant.....Sheje personale ska, ashta efektiv
i repartit ushtarak: Bateria ire, ka liri dalje ne qytet prej
ores.....deri ora.....te dates.....

Komanda Bat. Ire
Toger (Vasil Prifti)
Vula

/translation/

Albanian People's Armed Forces
Military Unit No. 1750/B

VF LP
Durres, date

PERMIT

Kursant....., who has no particular physical
marks, belongs to this unit, 1st Battery. He is permitted to
go into town fromto.....today.....

Commandant of the 1st Battery
Lt. (signature)
Stamp

(This permit was valid only within the headquarters at
Durres.)

32. Length of service in various branches of the Armed Forces:

Marinen Popullore	-3 years
Artileria Bregdetare	-2 years
Mbrojtje Popullore	-3 years
Kansoria	-2 years
Avacioni	-3 years
Nerlidhie e Zhenio (Telecommunications and Engineers)	- 2 years.

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The Shogri-Ndihmese-Ushtris-Mbrojtje-Iniziativa (SH.N.U.M.I.)

33. "Throughout all Albanian State institutions/ plants/ ministries/ cooperatives etc. there exists an organization, Communist-sponsored but non-compulsory, called Shogri-Ndihmese-Ushtris-Mbrojtje-Iniziativa (SH.N.U.M.I.).

25X1 [] This is the Society for Mutual Aid to the Armed Forces. Its purpose is to promote, through propaganda, support of the Armed Forces.

25X1 Each unit is headed by a full Party member. There is no particular insistence for males to join, but there is great insistence for females to join, since they are not subject to military conscription. The members age between 18 and 35. Despite the pressure for

25X1 members, only about 10% of the State workers belong to the SH.N.U.M.I. They carry dark-blue membership cards (no picture affixed).

25X1 [] The members attend one hour per week of theoretical military training and one hour of para-military training similar to the Para-Ushtarak course. The course is the same for males and females. Members pay a monthly membership fee of 2 lek. Membership in this organization brings no special privileges beyond more favorable status in the eyes of the Party."

-end-

171.1	10M
103.47	10M
107.74	10M
173.722	10M
173.711	10M

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